

Bypass could spur growth

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HIGH POINT — The Jamestown Bypass will bring new opportunities for growth in High Point, city planners told an online audience.

The major state road project, now under construction, will connect with an Interstate 74 interchange in the Five Points area and could enhance the redevelopment prospects for large, long-vacant sites like the former Presbyterian Home retirement center and the former Evergreens nursing facility.

“This will be a new front door into the city when the

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bypass opens in 2022,” said Heidi Galanti, planning services administrator.

The High Point section of the multilane, median-divided roadway is about two miles long. It will run parallel to Greensboro Road in High Point and Main Street in Jamestown and is designed to alleviate congestion along what’s now a two-lane roadway, and to enhance connectivity between High Point and Greensboro.

Planners have studied a 1.4-square-mile area along the corridor to provide policy guidance for future development, and they unveiled a draft of their assessment in a virtual meeting Tuesday.

They’re recommending nine land-use plan amendments and two city-initiated zoning changes along the corridor to prime the area for development and protect surrounding neighborhoods.

Galanti said some of the areas around the interchange could support high-density housing or

commercial uses such as hotels or restaurants.

Farther east, the land-use plan should be updated to facilitate a mix of residential development types and smaller-scale commercial uses, the draft advises.

Planners are also recommending a handful of street name changes once the new roadway opens, including Greensboro Road through the city and designating the bypass itself as the Jamestown Parkway, to be consistent with the segment that’s already open to the east.

Galanti explained to the virtual meeting audience that the proposed land-use and zoning changes are only recommendations and have to be adopted by the City Council to take effect.

Some in the audience who own property outside the city limits near the bypass corridor asked whether High Point plans to annex them. Galanti explained that would happen only if the property owners petitioned the city for annexation. Forced annexation requires a referendum.

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